

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

30    Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs comprising:

~~selecting~~ receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer computing device for printing;

35                    breaking down said original print jobs into smaller sub-jobs with said non-printer computing device;

interleaving said sub-jobs in an alternating sequence with said non-printer computing device; and

~~printing~~ sending said sub-jobs to a printer in said sequence.

40                    2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~selecting, said breaking down and said interleaving are performed at~~ non-printer computing device is a client computing device.

45                    3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~selecting, said breaking down and said interleaving are performed at~~ non-printer computing device is a network print server.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said breaking down is performed by a software print system component in an operating system print server.

50                   6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said operating system is Microsoft Windows ® and said print system component is a Microsoft Windows ® print processor.

                  7. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said print system component is independent of an operating system print driver-independent.

55                   8. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said print system component is a network print spooler that is independent of a printer.

                  9. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said print system component is a network print driver.

                  10. original) The method of claim 1 wherein said breaking down results  
60 in sub-jobs of approximately equal size.

                  11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said breaking down results in sub-jobs of approximately equal printing time.

                  12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said alternating sequence places sub-jobs originating from smaller original print jobs toward the front of the  
65 print order.

                  13. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs, said method comprising:

                  receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer, print system component before said jobs arrive at a printer;

70                   breaking down said original print jobs into smaller sub-jobs with said print system component;

                  interleaving said sub-jobs in an alternating sequence with said print system component; and

~~sending printing~~ said sub-jobs to a printer in said sequence.

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14. (currently amended) A method for reducing delay of smaller print jobs in a print queue, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system component before said print jobs arrive at a printer, said plurality of original print jobs comprising at  
80 least one larger print job and at least one smaller print job;

breaking down said larger original print job into smaller sub-jobs;

interleaving said sub-jobs with said smaller original print job in an alternating sequence; and

~~printing sending~~ said sub-jobs and said smaller original print job to a printer in  
85 said sequence.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising breaking down said smaller original print job into smaller sub-jobs and wherein said interleaving comprises interleaving said smaller sub-jobs from said larger print job with said smaller sub-jobs from said smaller print job.

90 16. (currently amended) A system for interleaving print jobs before said print jobs arrive at a printer, said system comprising:

a receiver for receiving a plurality of original print jobs, before said print jobs arrive at a printer;

a partitioner for breaking down said original print jobs into smaller sub-jobs;  
95 and

an interleaver for interleaving said sub-jobs in an alternating sequence, and a sender for sending said sub-jobs to a printer.

17. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising  
100 instructions for performing functions within a non-printer, print system component,  
said instructions comprising the acts of:

receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system component  
before said print jobs arrive at a printer;

breaking down said original print jobs into smaller sub-jobs;

105 interleaving said sub-jobs in an alternating sequence; and

~~printing~~ sending said sub-jobs to a printer in said sequence.

18. (currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in an  
electronic transmission, said signal having the function of interleaving print jobs, said  
110 signal comprising instructions for a non-printer, print system component to perform  
the acts of:

receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system component  
before said print jobs arrive at a printer;

breaking down said original print jobs into smaller sub-jobs;

115 interleaving said sub-jobs in an alternating sequence; and

~~printing~~ sending said sub-jobs to a printer in said sequence.